



## Press Release

For immediate release

For more information:

January 29, 2010

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### **Give Kids A Smile Day Highlights Disadvantaged Children's Need for Dental Care**

**Moline, Illinois** – Bethany for Children & Families is pleased to announce the eighth annual Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) Day on February 5, 2010, where an estimated 400 needy children in Rock Island and Scott County will receive dental cleanings and screenings. In all, 92 Quad City dentists have volunteered their time and resources to provide an oral exam, cleaning, x-rays, and fluoride treatment to children who do not have access to dental care.

Bethany for Children & Families has partnered with area schools to identify children eligible for the GKAS program in eliminating the silent epidemic of dental disease for the thousands of children who find it challenging to eat, sleep, or simply smile.

While poor diet and oral hygiene certainly play a role, lack of insurance and financial resources are also major barriers to dental care for children. The National Institutes of Health report that 80 percent of tooth decay is found in just 25 percent of children, primarily from low-income families.

“With a down economy and shrinking dollars in the social services sector, this year’s Give Kids a Smile Day proved to be our most challenging,” said Jim Bishop, Chairman of the GKAS Board of Advisors, “Our national model of donated dental services was in jeopardy. Thanks to Bethany for Children & Families, we were able to pool our resources and bring everyone’s talents together. Now we are, once again, looking at ways to improve the program and expand our reach.”

Colgate and Henry Schein donated dental supplies for the Give Kids A Smile Day and transportation for children from schools to dental offices is provided by Johannes Bus Service, First Student, and ACT II Transportation. Volunteers chaperoning children to and from the dental offices are from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Funding for the Give Kids A Smile Program this year is provided by the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS), Pierre Fauchard Academy, Medicaid insurance, and private donors.

*Please see the following information for specific details.*

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Local elected public officials have been invited to attend the event and we encourage media attendance at the following offices:

**Illinois**

Dr. James Millman and Dr. Scott Lopshire  
609 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Moline  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Iowa**

Dr. Fred Burnham, Dr. Kyle Gagliardo, Dr. Tim Smith, and Dr. Ben Seldon  
2820 AAA Court, Bettendorf  
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.